

LUCKY WOKING SCRAPE THROUGH

by "Argus"

Woking 4 Wycombe Wanderers 2

WOKING had as much right to these Isthmian League points as I have to the crown jewels. Sadly bereft of good luck, Wycombe Wanderers were beaten by a team their inferiors in football skill and ideas, after having spent fully two thirds of the game attacking the home goal.

Four breakaway goals—all the result of Wycombe defensive errors—gave this young Woking side a flattering win. The thickness of a goalpost was the key factor in ruling out a draw which would have been the perfect result.

A soft shot from Woking's clever veteran Charlie Mortimore wrongfooted the Wycombe defence in the 54th minute to trickle like a crippled centipede into goal off the woodwork.

There was no such good fortune for Wycombe. While they were striving desperately hard for their third equaliser Paul Bates leapt high in the Woking penalty area and glanced Cliff Trott's centre against a post.

But the gremlins and the goblins apart, the Wanderers were way below the crisp form they showed against Corinthian-Casuals. Only the restless, rugged Trott, of the forwards, showed the necessary urgency to beat a close-marking Woking defence. Cliff scored the two best goals of the match and demonstrated clearly that he is still an Isthmian force to be reckoned with.

Wycombe had chances enough to win twice over but they failed to shoot often enough and were inclined to be too casual. There was not enough drive on the wings, neither Alan Murphy or Michael Rockell matching the lethal wanderings of match-winning Woking left-winger George Harris.

HARD GRAFTING

It was Harris who spurted through a sleepy Wycombe defence to head the first goal, after eight minutes, from a free-kick just outside the penalty area. The Wanderers took 22 minutes of hard grafting before they equalised. Trott shaking the net with a clean, fast drive from all of 30 yards.

Unluckiest Wanderer was Ivor Ashby, whose goalward dashes were only just stopped by several last-second tackles.

Another opportunist goal, smacking suspiciously of offside, put Woking 2-1 up at the interval. Inside-right Bill Dowse seemed well clear of the Wycombe defenders when he snapped up a Harris pass to score. Even the Woking "Cards" looked surprised to have the goal allowed.

CRUCIAL GOAL

The first 15 minutes after half-time were easily the most incident-crammed of the game. Dennis Atkins scrambled the ball away for the Wanderers as Woking pressed and Murphy, who forced a corner after a good run, landed his flag-kick onto Trott's head for a fine equaliser.

Then came the crucial goal. Mortimore stuck a foot out as Collins centred and the ball spun off his foot and off a post into the net.

The Wanderers made a great sustained effort to pull back for the third time for they should never have been behind. Bates and Ashby had thundering drives saved by goalkeeper Harris. Bates hit a post and it looked odds on an equaliser before Harris caught Ken Brown flat footed on his goal line with a long lobbed shot which dropped behind him into the net.

HARRIS SLAMS WYCOMBE

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FIGHTING Wycombe twice equalised after trailing. They were finally crushed by two second-half Woking goals.

Woking, who fielded reserve wing half Bill Dowse at inside right, owed much of their success to left-winger George Harris. He scored two of their goals, and was the danger man of their attack.

But the liveliest man in the home side was left-half Rod Halder. He challenged for every ball, and provided a stream of accurate passes for his forwards.

Playing his usual deep-lying game former international centre-forward Paul Bates schemed for the Wycombe attack, with Cliff Trott providing the punch. Trott got both Wycombe goals, the second bringing them level after being 2-1 down at the interval.

Charlie Mortimore put Woking ahead for the third time. Then Wycombe forced a series of corners, but the home defence, in which Ken Turner was outstanding, stood firm.

A 30-yard lob by Harris that deceived goalkeeper Brown clinched it for Woking, whose other goal was scored by Dowse.